

In Senate, the Chair presented the credentials of the Hon. Richard B. Meade, Senator elect from Pennsylvania for six years from March 4, 1851.

Mr. Gwin introduced a bill creating a Board of Commissioners to examine and pay the claims against the United States growing out of the conquest of California.

Mr. Whithrop introduced a bill providing for the appointment of appraisers at large, and for other purposes.

Mr. Hunter submitted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the Senate the amount standing to the credit of the United States, at the end of the last fiscal year, at each of the several depositories of the United States, and the amounts of warrants issued prior to July 1, 1850, on which the drafts of the Treasurer were unpaid, &c.

Mr. Benton's resolution calling for copies of correspondence relating to the calling for Contoy prisoners, and the invasion of Cuba, was taken up and adopted.

A resolution submitted by Mr. Down fixing Friday of each week for the consideration of private bills, was taken up, debated and adopted.

Mr. Smith resumed and concluded his remarks in support of the bill providing for the ascertainment and payment of the claims of American citizens for spoils taken by the French prior to 1801; after which the Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Immediately after the reading of the journals, Mr. Potter moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of taking up the Post Office bill.

The amendment of Mr. Brown, of Indiana, alluded to in the conclusion of yesterday's report, by mistake attributed to Mr. Phelps, was the first subject of discussion, and was met by an amendment proposed by one of the members from Connecticut, having for its object to control the franking privilege of members of Congress, and prevent their carrying on correspondence for their own and party purposes at the expense of the people, which was without a division.

Mr. Evans, of Me., moved as an amendment to that of the member from Indiana, that no free matter be carried through the mail. He stated that he did not expect, owing to the feeling displayed by members on the subject, that his motion to abolish the franking privilege would succeed; but still he was desirous of placing his sentiments on record, and to have a vote of the committee on the subject.

The question was taken and negatively without a division.

An amendment was then moved, giving to the Postmaster General the power of increasing or decreasing the compensation to postmasters, which was lost.

On motion of Mr. Potter, of Ohio, the committee then rose, and when the House resumed, the previous question was demanded, which was carried, and thus prevented all further debate.

The Clerk then read the bill as amended, which had passed the committee, of which the following is the substance:

Section the first provides that after the 20th June, 1850, the postage on a letter sent through the mail, and not weighing more than half an ounce, shall be three cents; and the same for every additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce; that no post office or mail route shall be discontinued; and that the compensation of no postmaster shall be diminished in consequence of the passing of the act.

Section the second fixes the postage on newspapers, magazines and other periodicals and printed books, at one cent for every newspaper, &c., weighing two ounces, and an additional cent for every additional ounce, and that books weighing not over thirty ounces be deemed suitable matter. If further provided, that newspapers circulated within the State Territory where printed, shall pay half such postage, and when mailed within the country, or within thirty miles of the place where printed, shall circulate free of postage, when sent to subscribers direct, and further that when the postage on magazines and other periodicals shall have been prepaid, such postage shall be reduced one half.

Section the third prescribes that a coin of three cents in value shall be prepared, with a metallic inscription, three-fourths of silver and one-fourth of copper, to weigh twelve and three eighths of a grain, which shall be a legal tender in all sums under thirty cents.

Section four requires the Postmaster General to furnish the several postmasters with three cent stamps, to be supplied to persons willing to purchase; and declares that persons forging such stamps or having any in his possession for the purpose of passing them as genuine, shall pay a fine of \$500, or be imprisoned five years in lieu thereof.

Section the fifth authorizes the appropriation of a million and a half of dollars, to meet any temporary reduction of the revenue that may arise owing to the passing of the act.

Section the sixth provides for the publication of lists of unclaimed letters in a paper having the greatest circulation, and that should the publisher of such paper refuse to insert the list, he shall be deprived of the free exchange of papers, and other benefits which the act may confer.

Section the seventh authorizes the Postmaster General to establish post routes and offices of deposit and delivery, and the appointment of carriers in cities and large towns, who shall deliver letters at a charge not exceeding two cents each; provided the compensation allowed shall not exceed the receipts.

A motion was here made to lay the bill on the table, for the purpose of preventing further discussion; which was rejected, yeas 61, nays 130.

The first section of the bill, as amended, was then read by the clerk, and was carried by a majority of 124 to 83.

The other clauses of the bill were passed without any serious objection, with the exception of the last, which authorizes the establishment of post routes in towns and cities, upon which the yeas and nays were taken, and it was carried by a majority of 103 to 59.

The previous question was carried, and the yeas and nays demanded on the passage of the bill, which after struggling gallantly through a most strenuous and determined opposition, both in committee of the whole and subsequently in the House, was passed by a vote of 130 to 75. The House then adjourned till to-morrow.

Correspondence of the Mercury.

Washington, Jan. 18, 1851.

The Post Office Bill passed the House yesterday. It supplies the treasury with the payment of \$1,300,000, to make good the deficient year, which its reduction of postage is expected to create. It establishes a uniform rate of three cents on letters, whether they pass between neighboring villages, or from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. The Delegate from Oregon I understand, talked very high, threatening that the people of that Territory would not submit to any discrimination against them in the matter of postage. And so to make good the new fundamental maxim, "that all letters are created equal," and have an inalienable right to go to their destination at the same cost. Congress takes out of the treasury \$1,300,000. (Some say it will not be less than \$2,000,000,) and compels the taxpayers of the Union to make up the deficiency. This piece of plunder could not be carried out, were it not that it aids another scheme of plunder—the tariff. The postage is the only kind of direct tax laid by the General Government. Hence, the rule has always been, in fixing the rates, not to make the Department a source of revenue, as it is in the countries of Europe, but simply to make it support itself. Not content with this, the Manufacturers are now working to get the Mail Department filleted on the treasury, in order that by draining the latter, they may have a pretext for urging the revision of the tariff on principles favorable to their interest.

It was for the same end that, at the last session, near a hundred million acres of the public lands were given away by one bill, to all men who had ever been in the military service of the United States. By this act the Treasury loses the \$1,000,000 annually, which was received from the sales of public lands, as the land warrants issued under this bill will, for a long time, supply the demands of settlers. The same policy, coupled with the abolition mania, will most probably pass the bill now pending, to establish a line of war steamers to carry the Mail from the United States to the Coast of Africa. The Treasury will be drained, and the North will be able, after stealing our slaves, to ship them off, at our expense, to Liberia. As usual, a Southern man is found to father this abolition policy. Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, (one of those who first voted against the Texas bill, and after the adjournment of the House, saw a new light on the subject before the next meeting, and voted in favor of it.) is the man who introduced this bill into the House.

The condition of the South seems to be this: They are ejected from the twenty States to be formed out our Territories; all the public lands within the States are to be given away, in order to afford a pretext for further robbing them through the Tariff;—whilst by a variety of smaller projects of waste, the high protective system is to be confirmed and strengthened. And finally, if you are not satisfied with this reckless perversion of every principle just government, becoming worse and worse every day, you are called unconditional disunionists! Talk of a screw being loosed in this Executive government of ours, all the screws are loose, and the Constitution has dropped among the rubbish under the great.

Even Mr. Ritchie's claim, it is said, will pass. A Committee indignously constituted by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, having unanimously reported to the two Houses in its favor.

The Return of Escaped Slaves.—The last fugitive slave who escaped from Mr. Fowell, as returned to her master in Washington. The Union says:

She went off with another female and two male. I was belonging to him, some months ago, and I think the females Carolina was arrested with his colored companions in the carriage. Both of these females are now in the possession of her master; and one of them insisted upon remaining after his master had ordered her off. One of the females has returned from Pennsylvania, where she had found her way and had been very well treated; but such was her attachment to the family she had deserted, that she has voluntarily returned home sick, determined to devote her life to their service. Since she has seen the elephant, she will no doubt remain in the condition in which she was brought up. Such are the fruits of kind treatment on the part of the master, and of gratitude on the part of the slave!

A Great Capture.—England, during the last five years purchased of the Southern States two hundred and one millions, eight hundred and two thousand five hundred and ninety-two dollars worth of Cotton.

Of the Northern States, England purchased only one million five hundred and forty-one dollars worth of manufactured Cotton.

In the five years France purchased of the Southern States fifty-six millions of dollars worth of Cotton, and of the Northern States only a fraction over three thousand dollars worth of the Cotton fabric.

Slave of Henry Long.—Henry Long, the reclaimed fugitive, was sold at auction in Richmond, on Saturday last, to a gentleman from the South, for the sum of \$750. The purchaser was the only bidder, and was required to give bond and security in the amount of \$1,000 that he would remove Henry to the South, in compliance with the terms of sale.

Dwelling in Maryland.—The Reform Convention have instructed a Committee to inquire into the expediency of making a person killing another in a duel guilty of murder, and to have his property confiscated to the support of his victim's family.

Free Banking.—A meeting is about to be held in Philadelphia, of merchants and other business men, to take measure for memorializing the State Legislature for a law establishing a system of free banking in that State, similar to that of New York.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

THO. J. WARREN & C. A. PRICE, Editors. FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24, 1851.

A FALSE REPORT. We understand that it is reported in the up-country, that the small pox is prevailing in Camden. This report is untrue, and without the least shadow of foundation. Camden was never more exempt from disease of any kind. The proper authorities have adopted efficient measures to prevent the approach of small pox to our town, and if there is a case nearer to us than the infected Districts in North Carolina, we are not aware of it.

Of one thing our country friends may rest assured; if we should ever have the disease amongst us, we shall consider it our imperative duty to make it known through our columns, as soon as the fact comes to our knowledge.

Let us invite especial attention to the correspondence of the Charleston Mercury, found in another column; it will serve to show us very satisfactorily "his not all gold that glitters;" postage 3 cents, alias HIGH PROTECTIVE TARIFF, in other words, to use a homely phrase—"feed us on soft corn—then choke us with the cob—all for the support of a 'Glorious Union'—with a vengeance!"

Admissions to the Bar.

We learn by the Charleston Courier, of Thursday, that the following gentlemen were admitted on Wednesday last, by the Law Court of Appeals, to the practice of Law in the Courts of this State: Charles E. Bell, Henry Buist, Charles B. Buist, James Conner, William Moore, C. A. Price, Benj. H. Rutledge, Walter D. Smith, John A. Tyson, J. Newton Urner, and J. A. Williamson, Esqs.

We have recently seen many capital articles in our exchanges, relating to the State Convention and State Action, &c., which we would gladly have transferred to our columns, had our limits permitted. We were particularly and forcibly struck with the views expressed through the Columbia papers, by the various nominees in Richland District to the State Convention; these must be read with satisfaction, by every "sound hearted Carolinian;" they are the expression of one man as it were, although emanating from different sections of the district, and from men engaged in different callings and professions; these replies are characterized by unusual strength and perspicacity, are briefly given, but come at once to the point, and express a great deal in few words. We have remarked the uniformity of sentiment, and the evident and settled determination, so far as we have read, of the entire nomination, to resist at all hazards, Northern aggression, concurring as they do "that the measures of temporizing fear, degrade a State of its honor" to which we subscribe our hearty Amen.

Separate State Action.

The action of our State Convention, must determine the course South Carolina is to take towards the Federal Government. We therefore, call upon those gentlemen nominated Delegates to represent this District, to give publicity to their views upon this question, that the voters and people of Richland district, may know upon what contingencies their Delegates will assume the utilization of separate State Action.

Election in Sumter.

SINGLETON, Esq., has been elected Clerk of the Court, for Sumter District, by a majority of 483 votes.

At the recent election in Chesterfield District, Dr. Thomas E. Powe, was elected without opposition, a State Senator, in place of Hon. Wm. J. Hamon, resigned.

Col. Stephen Jackson was, at the same time, elected Sheriff of the District, by a handsome majority over his opponents.

We see that Mr. Geo. S. Hacker, formerly Transportation Agent on the South Carolina Rail Road, has his steam Car Factory under full sail. Mr. Hacker is a practical man, and one of the right sort, the city is that we have not a few more just like him. We are confident if the South would take its cause into its own hands, depend on its own resources and less upon the North, our condition would be infinitely better, and our independence more certain and stable. It is never too late to do good, is an old but excellent saying, and it is to be hoped, that the spirit of enterprise so commendable in our friend Mr. Hacker and others may be abundantly increased. We copy the copy the Courier's remarks:

Hacker's Steam Car Factory.—Rail Roads will soon intersect our State in almost every direction, and travellers by this mode of conveyance, be provided with increased facilities for visiting the mountains and watering places of their own section of country, and this, too, with the gratifying reflection that they are spending that they are spending their money at home, instead of lavishing it abroad. To those who make frequent use of our own roads, it will be an additional subject of congratulation, that the greater portion at least, even of the cars in which they ride, and all the materials of which they are constructed, are made at our Charleston workshops, by our own mechanics. A large number of the new and elegant cars which have been lately placed on the South Carolina Rail Road, are from the extensive manufactory of our fellow-citizen, Mr. Geo. S. Hacker, in King-st., nearly opposite the upper Guard House. The promptness and energy with which the site of this now lively and thriving scene of busy life has been, within a year past, metamorphosed from its former rugged dilapidated aspect, speak volumes for the prospects of an enterprise begun under such unpromising auspices, and already carried out beyond the expectations even of its well-wishers.

Mr. Hacker is a practical man, familiar with the details of machinery, accustomed, by long experience, not only diligent and watchful superintendance over others, but to working with

his own hands, and to use his own language, "more willing to work than fly for nothing." That such is the spirit which animates the great body of our mechanics, we are rejoiced to believe, and it is this which will ultimately bring them into successful competition with their brethren elsewhere, and enable them to furnish equally faithful work, at equally moderate rates. This desirable state of things is beginning to dawn upon us. The Factory under notice is a striking evidence of it. It is in all respects, a complete and comprehensive establishment. Every thing is done by the aid of machinery, and principally by native workmen; all sober men, and under good influences. The lumber is obtained from the vicinity of the Edisto, brought to the yard in its rough state, and there passed through every stage of preparation for use. Mr. Hacker having separate apartments for his engines, and machines for sawing, planing, tonguing and grooving, besides a foundry for casting in iron and brass, and machines for making bolts, cutting threads, &c. These several processes are each in itself, novel and interesting, and are necessarily carried on, on an extensive scale to keep pace with their demands on each other, consequent upon the increasing demand for cars from this establishment. Three to five freight cars are sometimes turned out in a day, making an average of about one per day. Constant employment is given to forty hands. Mr. Hacker is agent for the new India Rubber Car Springs, and is bringing them into gradual use upon our Roads.

Similar Factories are in progress in Georgia, and it will not be long before we shall be independent of the North, in this important item of expenditure. Mr. Hacker is determined to manufacture cars cheaper than they can be obtained from abroad. This fact speaks for itself. One such establishment, with such prospects, and already fulfilled promises, is worth one dozen speeches in Congress—and a few more public spirited industrious manufacturers on the same scale, will do us more practical good in the long run, than all the long-winded politicians put together.

Columbia Typographical Society.

The Thirty-sixth Anniversary of this Society, was held in the City of Washington, on the 4th inst. Among the invited guests, we see the names of the Hon. Jas. L. Orr, of this State, Member of Congress from 2d Congressional District, and Edwin DeLeon, Esq. Associate Editor of the Southern Press. A number of toasts were given, and speeches made. The Committee of Arrangements gave the following: "The Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, a distinguished representation of the Palmetto State—May the day never come, when in the list of the United States, the name of South Carolina shall be left out."

Mr. Orr responded in very happy terms, acknowledging the compliment in a brief and modest manner, he said:

For a brief period in former years I was associated in an humble way with your craft, as editor and proprietor of a country newspaper; that association taught me a knowledge of the arduous labors required of the compositor, and the poor rewards he received for patient, indefatigable industry. Nay, more; it taught me that the influence of individuals, the intelligence of communities, the prosperity of the country—so far as it depends on its legislative and civil policy—and, in fact, the rapid civilization of human society, depended upon a compositor and the printing press—upon the printing office.

Your profession, then, makes you great benefactors of your race; and whilst you are advancing others, it is your own fault if you fail to secure, in its prosecution, your intellectual and pecuniary promotion. Every hour you labor you are commingling with the thoughts of the learned, the wise, and great. Observation and memory are the only faculties taxed to lay up store-houses of knowledge, which may be used in subsequent life in whatever sphere you may be required to act. Many of those who have preceded you in your calling, have improved these facilities for acquiring knowledge, and the voice of the humble printer who commenced his career at the compositor's stand has been heard in the forum and Senate chamber—a faithful servant of his country, and a brilliant ornament to his profession. The satisfaction whose anniversary you this evening celebrate was established to protect your pecuniary interests, by securing unity and concert amongst the members of your profession. Its long continuance—this being your thirty-sixth anniversary—is the highest evidence that it has not failed in its object; and the bright faces which surround this social board attest the generous fraternal feeling which pervades the profession in this city. May it be perpetual.

This is not the appropriate occasion for me to enter into an exposition or vindication of the opinions or principles of the people of South Carolina, whose humble representative in part I am. She will take such action as she thinks necessary to vindicate her rights and honor; and no son of her's will carry out her resolves with more alacrity or firmness than the humble individual who now addresses you. But this is a festive board, and I will not violate its proprieties by discussing a deeply exciting political question, which is well calculated to mar the harmony and good feeling of the occasion.

In conclusion, Mr. Orr gave the following sentiment: Printing.—The only art which succeeds in making scholars, and divines out of deities. (great laughter.)

Edwold Fisher, Esq., on being complimented, made a short speech, and concluded with the following sentiment, designed as he remarked, to have a personal effect:

The Press of South Carolina—Equally distinguished for its ability, its courtesy, and its patriotism, and fit, as we have seen on the one hand, to be represented in the Congress of the United States, and on the other, in the Press of Washington city. Mr. DeLeon, replied to this compliment, as follows: Mr. President and Gentlemen: As an ex-member of the South Carolina Press, at present associated with the Washington Press, I feel bound to say a few words in reply to the undeserved compliment which has just been paid to

myself, and to express my appreciation of that paid my native State.

I know very well that the little State which I have the honor to represent in my editorial capacity, is not in remarkably good odor in some sections, or with certain classes of persons in this Confederacy. I believe, however, that the enlarged intelligence which characterizes the fraternity whom I have the pleasure of addressing, puts them above the reach of any such petty prejudices; therefore I feel that it would be utterly unnecessary to say one word in vindication either of the character or the patriotism of that State, which I deem it my highest privilege to claim as a mother, and whose honor and welfare I prize as I do my own.

As regards your meeting here to-night, I consider it an occasion on which we are not to indulge in political harangues; simply from the fact that politics are no novelty to you. I presume that your nocturnal vigils, over very lengthy speeches, have indisposed you to indulge much in the same species of luxury upon an occasion of conviviality, and, therefore, spare you the infliction of "setting up" to one of mine.

I have heard a great deal, gentlemen, in the course of my connexion with the Press of "printers' pig;" and, if the pies you have set before us this evening are a specimen of that article, I would hope to frequent opportunities of tasting a little more of the same sort. [Laughter.]

That I may not falsify my assertion in regard to making a political speech, I would ask you to allow me to deviate for a moment from that purpose, in order to make a remark in regard to the position of South Carolina. In the sentiment which was addressed to my friend (Mr. Orr,) who so ably represents our common State on the floor of the House, a reference is made to South Carolina, and a hope expressed that she would long continue one of the "United States." Gentlemen, that matter does not depend solely upon the State of South Carolina. It depends partly upon her sister States, but chiefly upon the measure of evenhanded justice meted out to her citizens, and the observance of the conditions of the compact by her co-partners. The State of South Carolina did not originally, never has, and never would have, desired to tear herself forcibly from the galaxy of which she forms a part, unless good and sufficient cause had been given for her to meditate a separation. The State of South Carolina has loved this Union much—she has sacrificed and suffered to form and sustain it; but she loves justice and equality more, and justice and equality are all that she has demanded. She has never demanded more; she never will voluntarily consent to accept less.

It may be treason in this free country for men to talk out boldly and plainly that which they think and intend to do. If so, the soil of South Carolina is strewn thick with such traitors—but in no other sense. She is sovereign over her own sons and her own destiny. Never, since the foundation of this Confederacy; never, since the flag was unfurled to the breeze, beneath which the people of the United States rallied to the rescue of their national name or safety; never yet, in any such time has South Carolina failed to furnish her full contingent, twice told, ay, and more, of money, and of men; and the bones of her sons whitening on every battle-field, from Canada to the City of Mexico, attest this solemn truth against all the slanders that have been or that may be uttered against her patriotism. I have nothing more to add upon this subject; and I regret that I have betrayed into saying so much. Allow me, in conclusion, to give you a sentiment. I propose the health of an absent brother.

The late Editor of the Republic.—A Bullitt that never missed the mark.

Hon. Wm. McWILLIE, Member of Congress from Miss, was complimented as follows by the Committee of Arrangements:

Hon. Wm. McWILLIE: As worthy a member of the craft as he is of Congress, and an excellent head to the Printing Committee. Mr. McWILLIE not being present, a note was read from him, containing the following sentiment: "The Constitution of the United States—The embodiment of the wisdom of the statesmen and patriots who framed it: the first duty of the Press is to defend it."

Cotton in Charleston.

Thirteen and three-fourths cents in Charleston is the highest quotation that we have to-day. Cotton in the Camden Market, will bring 13 3/4—3/4 was refused.

St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, Destroyed by Fire.

This beautiful structure was destroyed by fire yesterday morning, including most of the furniture, together with the Methodist Church and Clapp's Church in its vicinity, and several dwelling houses. Supposed to be the work of an incendiary.—Chas. Evening News, 20th inst.

For the Journal.

To Messrs. T. J. Withers, Jno. Caney, Thos. Dixon, L. J. Patterson, L. L. Whitaker, T. L. Long, Jesse Kilgore, C. J. Shannon, J. W. R. Blair, Wm. E. Johnson, and Jas. Chesnut, Jr. Gentlemen: As you have been nominated Candidates for the State Convention, it is desirable that the people should know your views, without equivocation or doubt. Will you therefore, answer the following interrogatory:

In the event of no other Southern State co-operating with South Carolina, in resisting the aggressions of the North, will you go for separate State action? BUFFALO.

GEORGIA AND EAST TENNESSEE RAILROAD.

We understand this Road is now progressing rapidly. Several miles of rails are already laid down and the work of laying down is proceeding at the rate of a quarter of a mile a day.—The road is in use now at the Dalton end, for a few miles, in transporting iron and other materials. In a few months forty miles of the road will be open for freight and trade. The road is built and graded in excellent style, and the rail used is quite heavy, about sixty pounds to the yard. Competent judges pronounce that this road in construction and equipment will be one of the best in the Southern States.—Augusta Constitutional.